rect answers. The model answers thus moderated upon were then frozen. Evaluation has been done on the basis of these frozen model answers. Full credit was given to the candidates who ticked the required number of correct answers. Full credit was also given to those candidates who ticked any one of the possible correct answers as contained in the model answers. Hence there is no question of any confusion arising in the minds of the candidates while writing the answers. There was absolutely no difficulty in evaluating the answer scripts. The question of conducting any enquiry, therefore, did not arise.

Setting up of farm machinery training and testing Instituting in Assam

250. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute at Bishwanath Chariali, Assam for the entire North Eastern region;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be completed; and

(c) what is the expected employment potentiality of the Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Government of India have established in 1990, Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute at Biswanath Chariali, District Sonitpur (Assam).

(c) This is a Central Sector Scheme, for training and testing in Agricultural Machinery. The Scheme is not employment oriented.

Setting up of Rice Research Institute in Assam

251. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Rice Research Institute in Assam; and

(b) if so, what is the time frame and the site for the Institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Lahaul Valley in Himachal Pradesh

252. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Lahaul Valley in Himachal Pradesh known for highest per hectare yield of potatoes is at present facing several constraints;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the present yield per hectare of potato in Lahaul Valley as compared to last five years and comparative figures in regard to neighbouring States; and

(d) what steps are being taken or already taken to remove those constraints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) There is no report about the constraints for production of potato in Lahaul Valley in Himachal Pradesh.

(c) The yield per hectare in Laha- ul Valley and neighbouring States is given as under:—

Yield in quintal/hectare

	Lahaul Valley	J & K	Punjab	U.P.	Haryana
1986-87	204	Not available	202.24	505.00	146.11
1987-88	213		117.02	193.74	156.06
1988-89	253		202.30	184.00	157.78
1989-90	278		196.27	182.05	163.33
1990-91	273		185.31	189.85	160.53
1991-92	270		..	..	..

(d) Latest technical know-how to the farmers is provided through training and visit system of extension. Besides, high quality seed and other inputs are being made available to the farmers.

Damage to Apple crop in Himachal Pradesh

253. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that apple crop was damaged in Himachal Pradesh due to heavy hailstorm which lashed in the last week of April, 1992;

(b) if so, what is the estimated loss of apple crop as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government have given any aid to Himachal Pradesh to compensate the loss of crop; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A loss of about 1.56 lakh tonnes of apple has been estimated by Himachal Pradesh Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Agricultural Production

254. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the annual value of Agricultural production excluding mining, fishing and forestry year-wise during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): The value of output from agriculture setcor (including livestock) but excluding mining, fishing and forestry during the last three years is as follows:—

(At current prices)

(Rupees in crores)

1988-89	132939
1989-90	146744
1990-91	174202

Assistance to cooperative credit institutions

255. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the de-